

BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT CCUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1958.



To: THE CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE
BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Blackrod Urban District Council for the year 1958.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	2392.4
Population - Census 1951	3,151
Registrar General's estimate of home population mid 1958	3,360
No. of inhabited houses at the end of 1958 ...	1,148
Rateable Value	£26,011
Sum represented by a penny rate	£105

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Estimated population at mid 1958 3,360

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
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Legitimate -	55	28	27
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Live Births

Illegitimate -	nil	nil	nil
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Live birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population:-

Crude Rate ... 16.4 : adjusted rate ... 16.0

Still Births

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
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Legitimate -	1	1	-
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Illegitimate -	nil	nil	nil
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Still birth-rate per 1,000 Total births 17.9

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 <u>total</u> births	Nil
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 <u>live</u> births	18.2
Nec-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	18.2
Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population :-	

Total (all forms) -	Crude Rate	10.7
	Adjusted Rate	11.8
Respiratory T.B.	Nil	
Malignant neoplasms etc	2.08	

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:-

Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths (all forms)	22	14	36

Causes of Death during 1958.

					<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Malignant Neoplasm (Breast) ...	...	...	...	...	Nil	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms ...	...	...	...	...	4	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Coronary Disease - Angina ...	...	...	...	...	4	1
Hypertension with Heart Disease. ...	...	...	...	...	Nil	1
Other Heart Disease. ...	...	...	...	...	5	3
Other circulatory Disease. ...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	...	...	...	...	2	-
Other defined and ill-defined Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	2	2
					<hr/> 22	<hr/> 14

Transferable deaths are included in the above.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Only eight cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year, four of which were Scarlet Fever. The district was exceptionally free from Infectious Disease during the year, not one case of Measles or Whooping Cough being notified. In the previous year seventy seven cases of Infectious Disease were notified.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED AND AGE GROUPS

(Age period - years)

Disease	Total cases all ages	0--	1--	2--	3--	4--	5--	10--	15--	25 & over	45 & over Total deaths
Scarlet Fever.	4				1	1	2				Nil
Pneumonia.	2						1			1	Nil
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	2								1	1	Nil

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(National Insurance Act, 1948).

No applications received.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

There is a practising Mid-Wife in the district, and a nurse from Westhoughton comes into the district daily.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

For Infectious Disease - by arrangement with the Divisional Health Office at Leigh, cases of Infectious Disease are sent to the nearest hospital on the list that can accept accommodation.

IMMUNISATION.

The Clinic at the Methodist School, Blackrod is open every Saturday morning. The doctor is in attendance on alternate Saturday mornings for the immunisation of children under school age, or over if necessary.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Public Health Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer and a P. Health Inspector who is also a Surveyor. A visiting Nurse is provided by the County.

GENERAL HEALTH.

The General Health throughout the district during the year was good and steady, there being no outbreaks whatever of Infectious Disease or Flu.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Ambulance facilities for all cases are controlled by the Divisional Health Office, Leigh, and the needs for the district are met by the Ambulance Station at Horwich.

MORTUARY.

The Mortuary, situated at the Cemetery is sufficient for the needs of the District.

Water Supply.

Source of Supply: Upland surface and land springs. The catchment area is principally moorland and is within the Urban District of Horwich, there being approx. 170 acres of land available to this Council for water collection. The undertaking is adequate for the needs of the district and over the greater part of the year the reservoir has been full and overflowing, surplus water being turned away to the streams.

In connection with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular on the re-grouping of Water Undertakings, the Council have given very careful consideration to this matter and in conjunction with the Horwich U.D.C. prepared and submitted a scheme to the Minister for the re-grouping of the two authorities water undertakings and the formation of a Joint Board, which would also include the Urban District of Adlington, who are being supplied in part with water from the Blackrod reservoir. The scheme would have many advantages, and one of the main advantages would be the utilisation of the water which is allowed to run to waste from the Blackrod reservoir over a large part of the year. The Minister, however, does not look upon this scheme with favour, but suggests a larger area to be formed including the Chorley Borough and the Chorley Rural Council area, and the area of the Withnell Urban District Council.

On the distribution side, the position during the year has slightly improved, this being due to some extent to a decrease in demand of the bulk supply to the Haigh Parish of the Wigan R.D.C. who also supply part of the Aspull U.D.C. from the Blackrod main supply. Aspull U.D.C. have carried out certain improvements to their main supply so that the demand from the Wigan R.D.C. has been reduced.

The Boosting Station pumps and motors have also been reconditioned and their efficiency has been improved, which also has assisted in maintaining a better water pressure during the periods of high demand. It is considered that the only long term solution would be for an additional main to be laid from the reservoir to Blackrod, as reported on in previous years.

19 samples of water have been submitted for bacteriological examination, 9 of these samples were taken from the supply mains. 7 were satisfactory and 2 doubtful. 5 samples were taken from the feeder stream, 4 of which were satisfactory and 1 doubtful.

5 samples were taken from a private shallow well at Brown Fold Farm and 4 of these samples were found to be unsatisfactory and 1 sample satisfactory. This isolated farm is the only premise in the district without a piped supply and efforts have been made to have this farm connected to the public supply mains.

All water entering the supply mains is first chlorinated, the plant being automatic in operation and is in continuous use. Tinned lead pipe is used as a precaution against plumbo solvent action.

The total number of houses with a piped water supply from the public mains is as follows:-

a)	Direct to Houses.	1148
b)	Stand Pipes.	Nil
c)	Private Wells.	1

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Sewage is treated at two main outfalls, Nightingale Farm and at Scot Lane. The treatment consists of primary settlement and finally treated by passing over the land before discharging to the watercourse. The Council have engaged Messrs. C. J. Lomax & Sons, Civil Engineers of Manchester to prepare a report and to make recommendations for the improvement of the sewage disposal arrangements at the Nightingale Farm and Scot Lane sewage farms.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Inspections are made from time to time at Shops and food preparing premises. There are the following types of food premises in the District:-

General Grocers and provision dealers.	20
Greengrocers and fruiterers.	Nil
Fishmongers (and those selling, poultry, game etc).	Nil
Meat Shops (butchers and purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tinned &c).	2
Bakers and confectioners.	1
Dried fish shops.	2

Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream 4
Licensed premises, Clubs, Canteens, Restaurants, Cafes, Snack
Bars and similar catering establishments. 16

12 lbs. of corned beef and 11 lbs. of ham was condemned and destroyed.

Number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food-Drugs Act, 1955.

	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of Visits.</u>
Butchers (Manufacturers of Sausages)	2	8
Baker (Manufacturer of Meat Pies)	1	4

Number of dairies registered under the Milk and Daires Regulations 1949/1954.

a)	Number of Dairies Registered.	5
b)	Shops in District other than dairies.	11
c)	Premises outside the District.	4

Carcasses inspected and condemned within the District.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
No. Killed.	-	71	-	176	18	Nil
No. Inspected.	-	71	-	176	18	Nil
<u>All diseases except</u>						
<u>Tuberculosis & Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	25	Nil	78	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci.	1	35	Nil	45	Nil	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	7	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	Nil	9	Nil	Nil	6	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Unsound meat and offals are stained with green dye and forwarded to heat treatment plant for conversion to fertilizers. Other food when found unsound are either destroyed by burning or depositing on the refuse tip.

11 premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, only prepacked ice-cream being sold. No ice-cream is manufactured within the district.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

Visits have been made to all premises to which the regulations apply. The Council after receiving applications from two shops applying for an exemption to the provision of wash hand basins decided to grant an exemption in one case. The exemption was granted against the advice of the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspector.

36 samples of milk have been taken from Producer and Producer retailers and submitted to the Public Health laboratories for analysis. All samples submitted were reported free from tuberculosis. 17 samples passed the Methylene Blue Test and 6 samples failed.

SCAVENGING OF STREETS.

The Lancashire County Council are the Highway Authority for Class I and II roads and they undertake the scavenging of these roads. Class III roads and district roads are maintained by the District Council. The standard of maintenance and scavenging is very good, but some difficulty has been experienced in controlling the deposit of mud in Dark Lane and Little Scotland which is being used extensively by heavy vehicles operating from an opencast site.

Sanitary Inspections during the year.

No. of premises visited.	170
Defects or nuisances discovered.	42
Notices Served (Informal).	42
Notices Served (Statutory).	19
Legal Proceedings.	Nil

Shops and Offices.

Two inspections have been made to Offices in connection with the provision of the Public Health Act, 1936.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This service is operated using direct labour. A weekly collection service is maintain for the collection and removal of domestic refuse. One side leading 8'cu. yd. refuse collecting vehicle fitted with sliding steel covers is used for the refuse collection service.

The method of disposal of refuse is by tipping, and at the present time two tips are in use. One tip is a disused colliery reservoir which is being filled to the level of the surrounding ground and the other tip is a deep cutting on agricultural ground, a section of a disused mineral railway which is being brought to surrounding ground level in order that the land reclaimed may be used for agricultural purposes.

Standard B.S.S. $2\frac{1}{2}$ cu. ft. dust bins are supplied to all domestic premises and charged as a rate service.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no premises registered in the district in relation to an establishment where an offensive trade is carried on.

SCHOOLS.

There are 3 junior and 1 secondary modern schools in the district. The sanitary accommodation is adequate at all schools, facilities for hand washing has now been provided and the school yard surfaces have been made satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES.

One bakehouse is being used at the present time. Inspections are made from time to time and the conditions found are satisfactory.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

No. in District.	3
Carpet Manufacturing.	1
Rayon Processing.	1
Joiner.	1
Motor Vehicle Repairing.	2
Clogger and Boot Repairer.	1

No. of visits.	10
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RODENT CONTROL.

132 premises have been visited, minor infestation of rats been found in 4 cases and 3 minor infestations of mice. Treatments were carried out in all cases.

Sewer treatment was undertaken on 2 occasions during the year.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

There are two public conveniences provided by the District Council these being sited at the Junction of Chorley Road, Hill Lane and Blackhorse Street and at the Junction of Manchester Road and Station Road. Bus passenger shelters are also incorporated in the buildings.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Privy Middens.	5
Closets attached to Middens.	5
No. of dry ash pits.	Nil
No. of fresh water closets.	1334
No. of waste water closets.	Nil
No. of conversions to fresh water closets.	1
No. of refuse bins.	1150
No. of premises at which moveable dust bins were substituted for fixed receptacles.	Nil
No. of Houses on water carriage system.	1139

HOUSING.

The District Council have authorised the construction of 12, bedroom bungalows for aged persons and building operations will commence early in the new year.

2 dwellings have been completed and a further 10 houses are under construction and these are being built by private enterprise for sale.

2 unfit houses have been demolished.

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT.

The improvement to the sewage disposal arrangement. The demolition of all unfit houses, the provision of additional houses for the families displaced by demolition of the unfit houses. The improvement of structurally sound houses but lacking in amenities.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Council's Officers for
their kind and valued co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

L. UNSWORTH.

Medical Officer of Health.

Dalton House,
Westhoughton.
TEL. NO. WESTHOUGHTON 2163.

23rd June, 1959.

